

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 7, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: JAMES K. HARTMAN, CITY MANAGER

FROM: RICHARD J. BAIER, P.E., DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON THE LOWER KING STREET FLOOD MITIGATION STUDY PROJECT

As approved in the 2005 City Capital Improvement Program, Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES) has initiated work on the Lower King Street Flood Mitigation Study. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the causes of localized flooding and to identify feasible flood mitigation alternatives along the Potomac River. The scope of the study has been expanded from the Lower King Street corridor to the entire City limits along the Potomac River. The City has hired URS Corporation to provide technical assistance on the project.

The project will consider both the nuisance flooding, which is generally caused by high tides, as well as extreme flooding, up to the predicted 100-year water surface elevation. Both types of flooding create impacts for the City's residents, businesses and staff resources.

A wide variety of alternatives, including, but not limited to, flood barriers and flood proofing, will be considered to mitigate the flooding problems. Each of the alternatives will be evaluated to consider aesthetic impacts along the waterfront, as well as impacts on the historic fabric of the Old Town area.

Detailed engineering assessments will be conducted as part of the feasibility evaluation of potential measures. The evaluation will quantify the effectiveness of each proposed alternative and estimate the associated costs. The evaluation will lead to the recommendation of cost effective solutions that consider historic/archeological resources, business/tourism impacts, and environmental impacts.

T&ES is coordinating with other City departments, including Planning & Zoning, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, Office of Historic Alexandria, Code Enforcement, Emergency Management, and the City's Business Facilitator, to solicit input and support for developing

potential solutions. In addition, the City is establishing a community advisory group of residents and business groups to work with staff as this project moves forward. The Waterfront Committee will be the core members of this advisory group. Representatives from residential and business areas potentially impacted by localized flooding will also be asked to participate in this advisory group. T&ES will hold community meetings to keep the community apprised of the progress of this study.

Staff expects to have the analysis completed and recommendations for mitigation options by the summer of 2007. If you have any questions about the Flood Mitigation Study, please contact me at 703-838-4966 or Emily Baker at 703-838-4324.

cc:

Rich Baier, Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
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